

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,923,552 to Brown ("Brown").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, 25 and 35-46.

Claims 1-46 are pending.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

At paragraph 4, the Office Action describes that "[t]he applicant argues with respect to claim 1 that the claimed invention distinguishes over Brown because Brown does not teach a network that provides its members with information that is 'compulsorily and continuously instructed and monitored.'" The Office Action goes on to describe that "the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., 'compulsorily and continuously instructed and monitored') are not recited in the rejected claims."

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the compulsorily and continuously feature of Applicants invention. Claims 13, 25 and 35-46 have been similarly amended.

Embodiments of Applicants' invention may be characterized by the following features.

Under control of a "work control site", to be more specific, under control of both a work flow processor and a work flow messenger particularly functioning in the work flow processor,

(1) the operation with the pair of "a notification or report" and "a confirmation of responses to the notification or report" are performed,

(2) by this, the work control site and each of the work executing sites can share work information “compulsorily and continuously”, and

(3) as the result of the operation of the pair performance of “a notification or report” and “a confirmation of response to the notification or report”, the entire management in the work managing system can be executed while maintaining both a coordination and confidence among the work executing sites and work control site.

Thus, the present invention provides a system in which the instruction and monitor of work information can be executed compulsorily and continuously. In this system, each of the work executing sites refers to a database located therein at a constant interval via communication lines by a program on the web pages, so that the above system is realized on the web pages through the Internet.

Applicants respectfully submit that this system of the present invention is different from the system of Brown, for the reasons of record. In Brown, merely schedule matchings are achieved.

Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1, claims 14-24 depend from claim 13, and claims 26-34 depend from claim 25. The dependent claims recite the same combination of allowable features recited in the respective independent claims, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of claims 1-46, be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

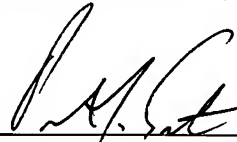
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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